

In the Specification:

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, as follows:

In one embodiment of this invention, a Cr-containing underlayer is interposed between the seedlayer and the magnetic layer. In another embodiment, the sequential stacking arrangement of the layers on the substrate is as shown in Figure 2. Figure 2 shows a non-magnetic substrate 10 having sequentially deposited on each side thereof a Cr-X or (Cr-X)O_x seedlayer 21, 21', an Cr-containing underlayer 22, 22', a CoCr-containing intermediate layer 23, 23', a magnetic layer 24, 24', typically comprising a cobalt (Co) -base alloy, and a protective overcoat 25, 25', typically containing carbon. The role of the underlayer is to improve the crystallinity of the subsequent interface with the intermediate layer as well as to more closely assimilate the lattice parameters of the intermediate and magnetic layers.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 3, 4, 5, 13, 14 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amend claims 1, 6-9, 11, 16-20 to read:

1. (Amended) A magnetic recording medium, comprising:
a substrate;
a seedlayer disposed on the substrate, wherein the seedlayer comprises a Cr-X containing material and a portion of the seedlayer is oxidized;
a Cr-containing first underlayer;
a second underlayer comprising an HCP alloy; and
a magnetic layer, in this order,

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Contd*

wherein a solid solubility of said X is at least 3 atomic percent in Cr, and said X is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, calcium, titanium, vanadium, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, zinc, or a mixture thereof.

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Sub B 1*

6. (Amended) The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the oxidized portion of the seedlayer contains from about 0.0001 atomic percent oxygen to about 20 atomic percent oxygen.

7. (Amended) The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the oxidized portion of the seedlayer contains from about 0.01 atomic percent oxygen to about 0.9 atomic percent oxygen.

8. (Amended) The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the seedlayer has a Cr-X (110) interplanar spacing that is substantially equivalent to a (0002) interplanar spacing of the HCP alloy in the second underlayer.

9. The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the second underlayer comprises a CoCr-containing material to form a first magnetic recording medium, the first magnetic recording medium exhibiting a stronger CoCr (11.0) peak by X-ray crystallography than that of a second magnetic recording medium that is similar to the first magnetic recording medium except that the seedlayer of the second magnetic recording medium contains substantially pure Cr.

11. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium, comprising:
depositing a seedlayer comprising a Cr-X containing material on a substrate, wherein a portion of the seedlayer is oxidized;
depositing a Cr-containing first underlayer;
depositing a second underlayer comprising an HCP alloy; and
depositing a magnetic layer, in this order,
wherein a solid solubility of said X is at least 3 atomic percent in Cr, and said X is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, calcium, titanium, vanadium, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, zinc, or a mixture thereof.

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16. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium of claim 11, wherein the oxidized portion of the seedlayer contains from about 0.01 atomic percent oxygen to about 0.9 atomic percent oxygen.

Sub B2
17. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium of claim 11, wherein the oxidized portion of the seedlayer has a mean grain size diameter of 10 nm or less.

18. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium of claim 11, wherein the seedlayer has a Cr-X (110) interplanar spacing that is substantially equivalent to a (0002) interplanar spacing of the HCP alloy in the second underlayer.

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19. (Amended) The method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium of claim 11, wherein the second underlayer comprises a CoCr-containing material to form a first magnetic recording medium, the first magnetic recording medium exhibiting a stronger CoCr (11.0) peak by X-ray crystallography than that of a second magnetic recording medium that is manufactured similarly to the first magnetic recording medium except that the seedlayer of the second magnetic recording medium contains substantially pure Cr.

Sub B1

20. (Amended) A magnetic recording medium comprising:
means for low noise recording,
a magnetic layer,
an underlayer comprising a Cr-containing material and
a layer for allowing a BCC-HCP transition to occur between the underlayer and the magnetic layer.